



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**AUGUST 24, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
Rita Hall  
John A. Hammargren  
Carl E. Moore

**Others Present**

John Van Whervin, Director, Facilities and Capital Projects, Superior Court  
Henry Hernandez, Superior Court  
Richard Martinez, Chief, Sheriff's Department  
Richard Barrantes, Commander, Sheriff's Department  
Warren Asmus, Captain, Sheriff's Department  
Danny Sneed, Captain, Sheriff's Department  
Samuel Dacus, Captain, Sheriff's Department  
Khanh Nguyen, Deputy Executive Officer  
Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services Division  
Audra Galang, Commission Services Staff

Chair Montano welcomed the guests from the Sheriff's Department and Superior Court.

### **DISCUSSION ON COURTHOUSES IN COMPTON, LONG BEACH AND TORRANCE**

- Captain Sneed reported that repairs to the Long Beach Courthouse elevators are almost complete. Mr. Van Whervin, Director of Superior Court Facilities and Capital Projects, added that parts for the broken escalators were purchased and that the downtime for the escalators has been significantly reduced. He also reported there is a project to add an elevator from the fifth floor to the sixth floor.
- Mr. Van Whervin discussed the 1997 Trial Court Funding Act that changed the structure in which the courts were funded. He further added that in 2001, Proposition 220 was passed and all courts were consolidated throughout the State and now have one Executive Officer to manage all former municipal and superior courts. The State is now responsible for facilities and for any judicial appointments after 1997. With this transition, he explained that building maintenance was transferred from the responsibility of the County to the State and that the State privatized the maintenance requirements to a third-party facilities management firm.
- Chief Martinez explained that the court contracts with the Sheriff's Department in Los Angeles County to provide court security and that this practice is consistent throughout the State. In the past, the Sheriff and the court went to the Board of Supervisors to resolve issues. Today the process is more complex because the court has its own budget which is part of the entire State budget and comes from the Governor. It has become more complex now that the State has taken over court buildings. Within each courthouse the court is responsible for general areas while the Sheriff's Department is responsible for the lockups.
- Chair Montano explained the Commission's role and their focus on the safety of inmates, Sheriff's Department personnel and the public. For further clarification, staff distributed a copy of the Sybil Brand Commission ordinance.
- Mr. Van Whervin reported there is \$9 billion for the construction of the Long Beach Courthouse and others. The State did a master plan of the facilities back in 2004 and the recommendation was to replace the Long Beach Courthouse with two new courthouses – one criminal and one for civil. The

State later did a re-ranking and determined that Long Beach is the first project to be replaced. At the State level, they agreed on a budget line item for Long Beach replacement starting in July 2008 pending the Governor's approval.

- Mr. Van Whervin discussed the courts responsibility for cleaning the air ducts and explained that the procedure is to request CAO funding. Once approved, the CAO can instruct ISD to do the air duct cleaning.
- Commissioner Hammargren asked if it was appropriate to talk to the court administrator on some issues. Mr. Van Whervin responded that facilities issues are a centralized function within the Superior Court. Although a discussion may be had with the local management personnel, he is the contact person for facility issues.
- In response to security concerns raised about the Pomona Court, Mr. Van Whervin said that he was not aware of any security problems at the Pomona Court. He advised the commission that the court has 24-hour security but it does not have a secured parking area. He further added that due to a \$12 million cut in the security budget, the court has contracted with the Sheriff's Department for additional security guards.
- Chief Martinez and Mr. Van Whervin joined in a discussion of the effect of budget cuts on staff and court closures. Chief Martinez assured the commission that the sally port at the Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center has been repaired.

Chair Montano thanked the Department representatives for their attendance and informative presentations and offered their assistance in addressing courthouse security issues.

She requested staff to send thank you letters to all guests present.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sandra Barbee*  
Chief, Commission Services Division